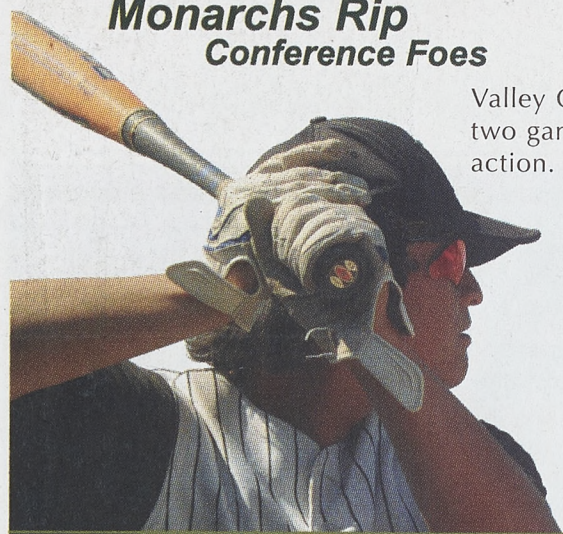


4-22-09

Pitching and Defense

Monarchs Rip Conference Foes



Valley College wins two games in WSC action.

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VALLEY STAR

LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE'S

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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Speech Team Succeeds
Valley's team succeeds during speech competition for second year
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Why come to school to just waste our time?
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Horror movie enthusiasts flock to annual convention
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VOLUME 70, ISSUE NO. 6

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APRIL 22, 2009

ASU Works Within Its Rights

■ Delahoussaye and Ortiz determine ASU did not violate their consitution by ousting Richardson.

SHARON HARDWICK &
ROBERT R. KING
STAFF WRITERS

Valley College Vice President of Student Services Yasmine Delahoussaye met with ASU Advisor Elizabeth Ortiz Monday, confirming that the Executive Council acted within their right by voting to dismiss Lobby Committee member Jesse Richardson.

While Richardson accepts that there was no constitutional wrongdoing, he feels the decision does not address the issue of free speech.

"I absolutely feel like my rights were violated," said Richardson. "You can't punish me for what I say."

Delahoussaye noted that if Richardson feels the ASU violated his First Amendment rights, he could file a grievance with President Sue Carleo.

Los Angeles Community College District Administrative Regulation E-63 protects students' free speech under the tenants of the First Amendment and a grievance can be filed if allegations, "which, if true, would demonstrate a violation of the grievant's right to free inquiry, free speech, or fair treatment."

"I do plan on filing a grievance as soon as possible," said Richardson.

The ASU fired Richardson from his position as a result of his guest opinion article on the ASU sponsored trip to Sacramento ("The Cost of a Valley College Thank You...Priceless," March 25) printed in the Valley Star.

ASU President Josh Wible maintains Richardson was dismissed for ineffective service and violating ASU by-laws by writing a misinformed opinion.

"Anyone can file a grievance," said Wible. "(Richardson) has every right to do so," making it clear that a complaint does not prove the ASU's culpability.

President Sue Carleo met with Wible before Spring Break to hear his perspective of Richardson's dismissal but has

see *ASU* page 2



PLAYING AMONG THE CROSSES

Adriana Flores plays in the Santa Monica sand where white crosses stand in honor of fallen U.S. soldiers killed in the war in Iraq. The Arlington West Memorial is a statement from the Venterans for Peace, volunteers and concerned citizens against the Iraq conflict. For full story, see Gallery, page 8.

GRETTEL CORTES / VALLEY STAR

Service is the Name of the Game at Center

NATALIE KESHISHIAN
STAFF WRITER

For many students, deciding on a major or career can be a difficult decision that will have a great impact on their future. Every spring semester, the Valley College Career/Transfer Center offers students an opportunity to attend career workshops aimed at gaining a better understanding of a particular field.

A career in Human Services was the focus of a workshop held on Thursday, which attracted a small but dedicated turnout.

Social services, child welfare and homeland security are some of the career opportunities available in human services. Guest speakers from child and family services, probation, as well as Valley's own psychology professor Andy Halon, were present at the workshop to speak about their experiences in the human services field.

"When I was in the same place as you, I wanted someone like myself now to tell me what working in humans services is really like," said Scott Haberman, who graduated from Cal State Northridge with

a bachelor's degree in sociology, and has worked as a probation officer for the past 21 years.

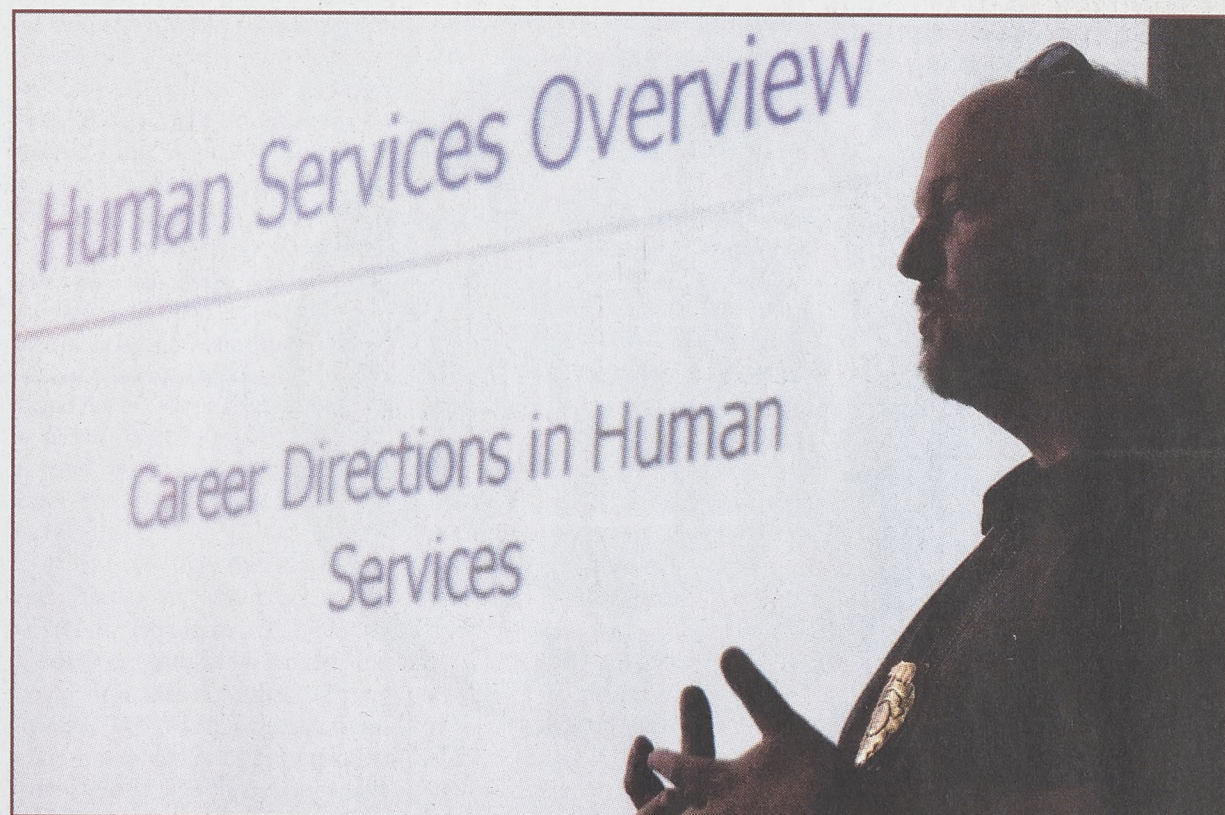
As a probation officer, Haberman has been on special assignment with the Burbank City Police Department, working at local schools with troubled kids. For him, the personal gain of his job outweighs any salary he might make.

"The amount of money I make doesn't matter, the fact that I get 12 to 13 students to graduate high school who otherwise wouldn't, makes the job worth it...You have to have a passion for human services," he said.

Students interested in human services were highly recommended to volunteer and receive hands-on field experience to figure out what kind human service work appeals to them.

Dana Hubert, a Valley college alumnus, graduated with a master's in social work, and is an adoption worker in the Department of Family and Child Welfare Services.

"Social work does not begin after you get your degree, it begins in the process of getting your



JONATHAN GBBY, EDITOR IN CHIEF / VALLEY STAR

HELPING TO HEAL - Probation officer Scott Haberman spoke to Valley College students about the rewards of a career in Human Services, Thursday.

degree" said Hubert, mentor and Valley Professor Michael Vivian, a professor at Valley.

A series of workshops will be held in Foreign Language 102 from 1-2 p.m. For more information, visit

the Career/Transfer Center in the Administration Building or call (818) 947-2646.

Academia Rewarded at the Dean's Reception

■ Honor students praised by Valley College during ceremony.

ASTRID SEIPELT
MANAGING EDITOR

Friends, family and staff packed Monarch Hall Thursday afternoon as more than 150 Valley College students were rewarded for commitment to their studies in fall 2008 at the Dean's Reception.

Both full-time and part-time students with a grade point average of 3.5 or better in at least 6 units are placed on the dean's list, with three consecutive semesters on the list earning the title of president's honor. This semester, 1,764 stu-

dents were placed on the dean's list and 309 made it to the president's list.

Patrick Thompson, president of honor society Tau Alpha Epsilon opened proceedings, setting a theme of appreciation.

"We would like to congratulate you all on your hard work, we know it's not easy juggling kids, a job and reality in general," said Thompson, who is on the president's list. "You have proven with persistence and commitment, anything can be accomplished."

Anthropology major Julie Lunar-Strom juggles her work



GRETTEL CORTES / VALLEY STAR

AND THE HONOREES ARE - TAU Alpha Epsilon President Patrick Thompson takes the podium to announce the Dean's List awardees at the Dean's Reception, Thursday.

commitments and school. The three-time president's list honoree, plans to transfer to the University of California Los Angeles next year.

"I work really hard to get the

grades that I do, so this is kind of a way to treat myself and to say, yes, you earned this," she said.

Associated Student Union

see *Dean's* page 2

Measure J Discussed During Town Hall Meeting

NATALIE KESHISHIAN
STAFF WRITER

Valley College held a town hall meeting on campus April 14, to discuss how Measure J will impact the future of the school's building plans, which will include the construction of a new library.

Measure J, passed by voters during the November 2008 election, has provided \$286 million for building and renovation projects. A panel of six representatives from Stratus (Valley's educational master planners) and Steinberg Architects (Valley's facility master planners) were present at the meeting to intro-

duce the Educational Master Plan, which was approved by the college council in June 2008 and creates a road map for the school's future direction.

"[It's about] how we get from where we are now to where we want to be, and how do we measure success along the way," said EMP Committee member Don Gauthier, who is also a professor on campus.

As part of the EMP plan, Stratus and Steinberg Architects will be performing strategic research, environmental and internal scans until 2013. Their aim during this time will be to

see *Measure J* page 2

'ASU'

continued from page 1

not met with Richardson. She said based on Wible's accounts of the meeting it seems as if the ASU did not break any rules. However, she emphasized the complicated nature of the issues.

"I don't want students to feel as if they can not speak freely," she said.

At the same time Carleo noted that when a person joins an organization they should not do anything to discredit it. She suggested a better solution would be to step away from the organization if they disagree with certain policies.

While Carleo anticipates a meeting with Delahoussaye and Ortiz, she said at this time she is not in a position to make an official determination on Richardson's complaints.

"I won't intervene if it is not necessary," she said, and hopes the issue will be handled between the parties involved.

She said that the situation is "fuzzy and grey and messy."

Speech Team Makes Two in a Row

■ The Phi Rho Pi Community College National Speech Tournament proves a goldmine, with Valley speakers taking home second place and plentiful medals.

ASTRID SEIPELT
MANAGING EDITOR

Getting up at 6 a.m. for a team workout, and stretching your vocal chords until 10 o'clock at night may seem like an odd way to go about preparing for a speech tournament. But, this routine led the Valley College Speech Team to second place at the 2009 Phi Rho Pi Community College National Speech and Debate Championship.

Valley, who placed first overall last year, won 27 medals at the tournament, which was held April 6-11 in Portland, Oregon. Their medal tally was higher than any other college in attendance. More than 60 schools from across the nation competed in categories including Drama, Communication Analysis, Debate and Speech to Entertain.

The award for number one team overall is based on a points system, with Valley beaten out by Orange Coast College to first place by ten points. However, the team did place first in the Public Speaking category.

"We're strongest at what are called interperative events...The non-debate stuff, we took first

place in that," said team coach Josh Miller. "It's in the personality of our students, and as coaches, that's our strength."

Miller also noted that the biggest competition for Valley came from their own backyard, with the top ranking schools, including previous Phi Rho Pi winners, all hailing from Southern California.

Valley success did not stop with just the team, as student Thomas Petersen tied for second place for the Bovero Tabor Award for best speaker, in addition to his two golds, a silver and a bronze. However, Petersen is quick to share the glory with his teammates.

"I didn't go into the tournament aiming to win the award," said Petersen. "Your goal as a team was to win nationals again...I've never been a person to go after individual awards, I'm more of a team guy. It was awesome to do well as a team, this team is like family to me, and it's always great to be able to celebrate something with family."

Speech Team Director Duane Miller said that Petersen embodied the humility and discipleright word? of the team, noting that "The judges could not stop talking about

him."

Constant travel and the sacrifice of time are the hallmarks of a speech team member, but student Annie Leroux believes that it is all worth it when the team experiences success.

"I was so excited [for second], last year was one of the first times we had ever won a true first, so we were coming into this and we were a little more nervous, there was a lot more attention put on us," said Leroux, who won a gold medal and two silver. "We were ready to work that much harder to keep our title, so we were up very late and very early...I think the only time we took a break was to eat. We did it because we love it, not because we were forced to do it."

Miller said that ultimately he was proud that his team had proved that they were a force to be reckoned with.

"Last year, people thought it was a fluke that we took first, that's the good thing about taking second. A lot of the time, people that win one year tank the next year...We kind of came out of nowhere so to do it again and take second place is very difficult to do."

'Measure J'

continued from page 1

develop a new mission and strategies to identify the most effective ways Measure J funds will be used, according to Gauthier.

The funds allow the college to propose new projects, such as creating new buildings as well as departments within the college. General campus improvements and a new Environment Center will also be funded by the measure.

Stratus has already started strategic research and identified locations within the college's service area that can provide growth opportunities for potential students.

"If a student doesn't happen to be in a science program we need to make sure that they don't feel left behind or the faculty doesn't feel behind," said Chair of the EMP Committee, Rebecca Stein, in regards to creating new buildings to help with the influx of students.

The college is also looking to establish a more visible presence within the community, as well as increase student access.

"We need to make sure we are providing access to our community and potential students," said Valley College President Sue Carleo.

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'Dean's'

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President Josh Wible also addressed the crowd, acknowledging that it is not just the hard work of students that propels them to a higher GPA.

"We cannot forget a group that play a key role in our academic and personal success, the faculty of Valley College, they believe in us and push us to our limits," said Wible.

Newly appointed permanent College President Sue Carleo

perhaps provided the most fitting words for the students gathered, as she lauded them for their scholarly skills, yet cautioned them on balancing the growing stresses of life and school.

"Your accomplishment today has set the bar, so now, you have to keep doing it," said Carleo. "People will not expect any less, in fact, they will expect more."

She continued, "Sometimes it is important in life to remember that some days you are the pigeon and other days you are the statue...Know what I mean? Some days are truly better than others."



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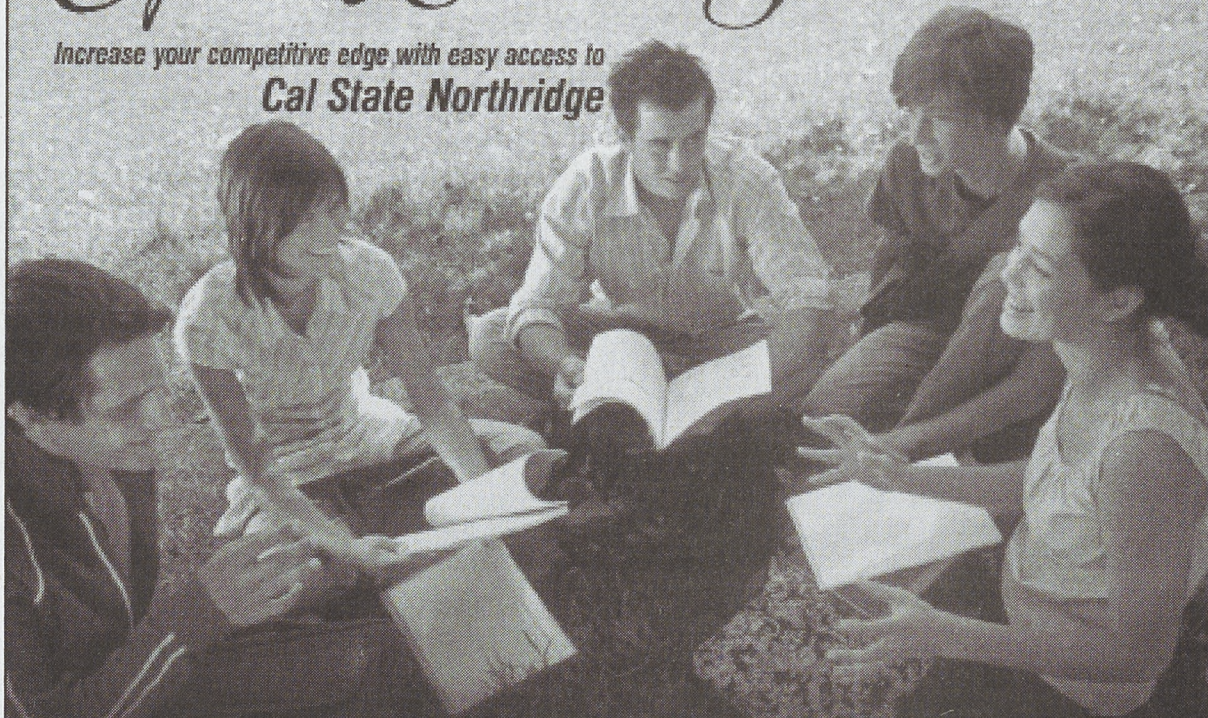


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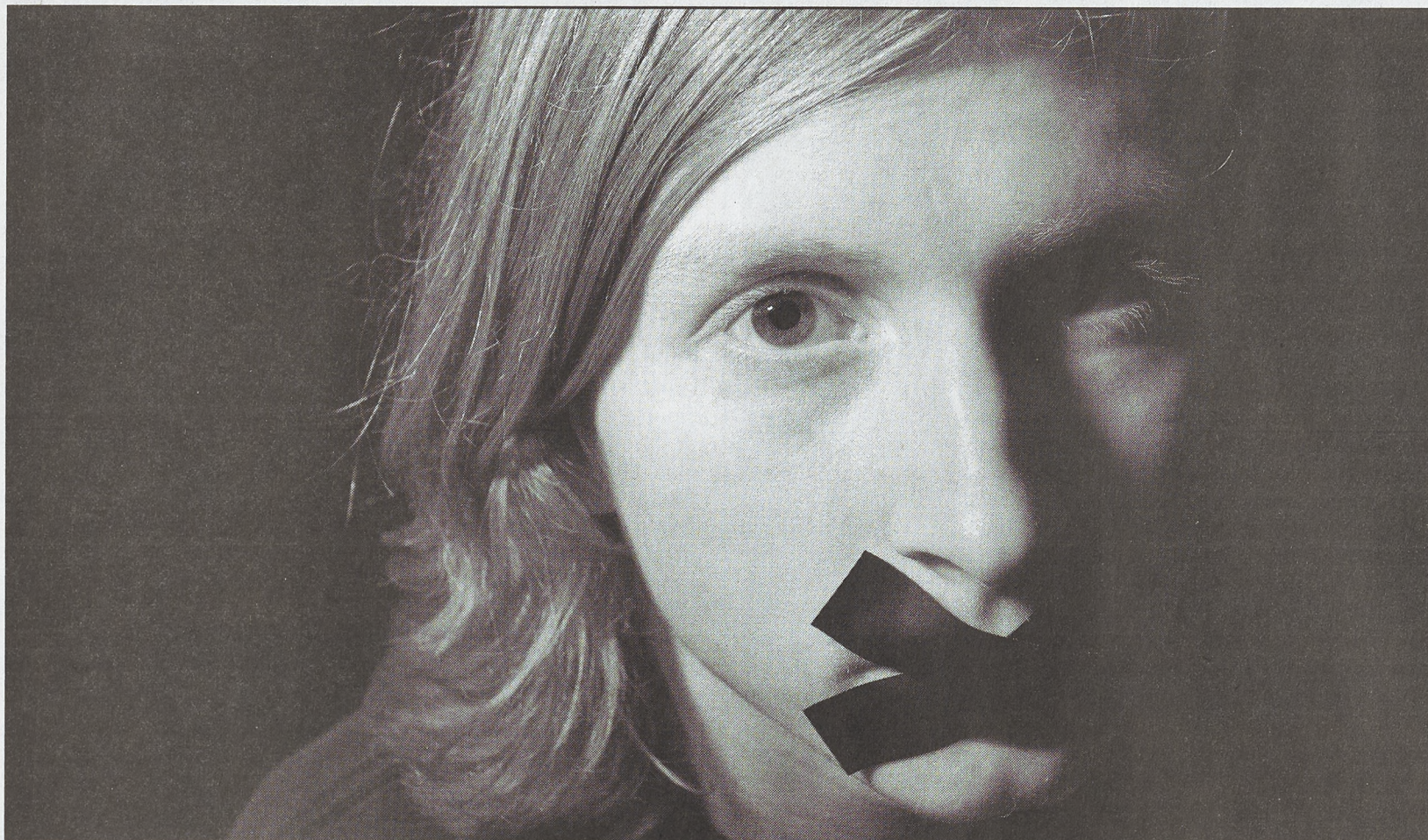
Session 1: May 26 - August 18
Session 2: May 26 - July 7
Session 3: July 8 - August 18

Registration Begins April 14.

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OPINION

3



SILENCED BUT NOT STOPPED - Former ASU Lobby Committee Member Jesse Richardson plans to contest his dismissal by the ASU Executive Council.

ASU Not Wrong, But Unethical

STAFF EDITORIAL

Five members of the ASU Executive Council, lead by President Josh Wible, voted on April 2 to dismiss Jesse Richardson from his position on the ASU Lobby Committee for publicly criticizing the ASU's trip to Sacramento. While they were within their legal rights to do so, they were wrong in their actions.

Richardson, a former member of the ASU Lobby Committee, admonished the ASU for mishandling a recent trip to Sacramento for the March in March Rally, in an editorial titled, "Cost of a Valley College Thank You...Priceless," published in the March 25 edition of the Valley Star.

Richardson's guest editorial prompted Wible to respond with a Letter to the Editor (at right), in which he pointed out at least one factual error in Richardson's piece. Richardson said, in his editorial, that the funds for the trip could have been used for other purposes. Wible has pointed out, and Richardson now agrees, that the money spent on the trip could not have been used elsewhere. Regardless, it appears

the ASU mismanaged the trip's finances. As an example, ground transportation for the students in Sacramento came in the form of a luxury tour bus from Great Western Stage instead of less costly shuttle vans.

Wible's letter should have been a means to an end in resolving the issue of Richardson's error. However, he chose to push further and removed Richardson from the ASU Lobby Committee by way of a vote, setting a chilling precedent by retaliating against those who express dissenting views. Wible denounced Richardson for not upholding the image of the ASU and accused him of being a detriment to Valley's student body for voicing opinions that varied with those of the ASU. If every ASU member is to be held to the same standards, then one must ask whether Chief Justice Steven Ruiz, who effectively stole coffee from the school cafeteria by holding an unauthorized tab, fits this "image."

While the validity of the trip in question is open to debate, the question that remains is not whether

Wible had the legal right to remove Richardson, but whether he was right to do so.

The March in March Rally in Sacramento, organized by a state level community college student government, published material that stated the rally was held to demonstrate that "cuts to any branch of California's system of higher education, affect all branches of higher education." Citing \$165 million of unfunded growth in community colleges, the sponsoring organizers called for the government to "more realistically plan for and fund our Community College safety net; so education standards are not compromised."

The ASU's intent for the rally differed from that of the event organizers stated purpose and the fact that Wible and others took the trip to thank the legislature is not congruent with the beliefs of many Valley students.

Another question raised by Richardson's dismissal is whether or not Wible handled the situation appropriately.

Because the meeting fell on a

Thursday instead of the normally scheduled Tuesday, only six of 11 members, the minimum amount to establish quorum, were available to vote.

Lupe Burgara, former ASU Commissioner of Political Affairs was the only member to vote against Richardson's removal. Burgara felt strongly enough about how the situation was handled that she resigned from her position immediately following the vote, stating that she would not be a part of a board that acted in such a manner. With Burgara's resignation, two people, who have stood up for their principles this semester are out of Wible's ASU.

Perhaps Richardson's editorial did not express his concerns over Wible's action in the most accurate way, but the Valley Star endorses Richardson's right to express his opinion and applauds Burgara's courage. For a person in Wible's position, thick skin is required and if he is this brittle when it comes to criticism from those students who pay their ASU fees every semester, then he is in the wrong position.

world," said Valley student Jose Escalante. "[Maybe] they just think college is going to be like Grade 13 and 14 for them, but it will catch up to them eventually."

The sense of entitlement that permeates Valley is like a bad smell that we all get used to over time. Perhaps it is because we attend a community college, and therefore feel that academia should be less rigorous, but seriously, this is college. It shouldn't matter if it is a two-year or a four-year school, things are going to be hard. You need to wrap your head around the fact that professors are here to challenge you, not to hold your hand as you attempt to comprehend the Pythagorean Theorem.

Fellow classmates, please stop whining that teachers are "meanies" for giving out a one-page study guide for finals instead of laying it out, step by step - that's what

textbooks are for. I know they look so pretty, bound in plastic, sitting in your living room, but be brave, read! You might learn something useful.

It is true that there are students among us who truly put in the effort, balancing the demands of studying with employment and family. It is also true that "C's get degrees," but if you have that mentality, you should just stay home. Let someone else who really cares take the seat you occupy in a classroom, when you actually show up to class.

To bastardize an old saying, you can lead a student to a classroom, but you can't make them care. We truly are victims of our own apathy, too discouraged by the economic situation today that we might as well stop trying, but maybe that works out the best because it means there is one less person out in the world who is in the way of my success.

Letter to the Editor

RE: "Cost of a Valley College Thank You...Priceless"

The Editorial Board's policy (see below) states that letters to the editor are limited to 300 words. However, the board decided to allow ASU President Josh Wible's letter to run at full length.

In response to the "The Cost of a Valley College Thank You...Priceless" article, I would like to point out that the opinions expressed are those of clearly uninformed, political activist wannabe, "Monday-morning, armchair quarterbacks" that do not take the time nor possess the abilities to actively participate in student government. Jesse Richardson has not attended any of our executive council meetings or finance committee meetings nor did he even participate in the March Rally. (I emphasize the word "rally", because it was always billed as a rally, never as a protest.) If Mr. Richardson would have taken the time to understand the issues, he might have been able to offer a more factually based opinion on the matter. A fact-based opinion would have highlighted the hard-line stance that the Governor took in protecting the community colleges and their key programs such as Cal Grants, EOPS, and DSPS with the record number of vetoes he issued on the budget. It might also point out the \$350+ million in initially proposed community college cuts that we did not see because of this opposition.

The irony of the situation is that Jesse Richardson is a member of the ASU Lobby Committee, which is the committee that oversees all of our lobbying efforts—including the Sacramento trip. Mr. Richardson however did not participate in the planning as is his job on the committee, nor did he attend the mandatory rally meetings with the students where the details were explained by ASU members and administrators. Jesse did not even attend the rally itself. How can someone offer an "opinion" on something that they did not take the time to even get the facts? That is not an opinion piece but rather hearsay and definitely has no business making it into the newspaper.

Had Mr. Richardson participated in the "pointless" rally, he might have known that groups of Valley students also met with legislators to address key pieces of legislation involving the community colleges. These are bills that would expand disabled equipment allocations for the hearing impaired and legislation that would ease the transition and residency requirements for foster youth residing in our state. We also vocalized support for a property tax back-fill bill that would automatically balance community college budgets in the event that property tax revenues don't meet projections—key budgetary issues that Jesse Richardson is undoubtedly unaware of.

The thank you card for the governor was a suggestion of our VP of student services, Yasmin Delahoussaye, who confirmed the supportive stance of the Los Angeles Community College District's professional lobbyist on the intent of the rally. This is a man whose full-time job it is to lobby for community college needs, and whose opinion carries more weight in the matter of lobbying than that of misinformed students, i.e. Jesse Richardson and Clay Gallardo. By the way "Mr. Informed Richardson," a stamp has not cost 27 cents in over 20 years.

Jesse and Clay's suggestions in the article to donate the money to various labs only prove their col-

lective ignorance of our procedures. The student rep. account that funded the Sacramento trip is restricted and only authorized to fund shared governance practices and lobbying trips. Any other use is illegal and would be immediately flagged by the fiscal administrator of the college. You falsely accuse us of "mismanagement of funds" and directly after, suggest that we break the law!? You pose a question of the effectiveness of political flattery versus political pressure? Well it is all founded upon political awareness and being adequately informed. I suggest you start there.

As for the Valley Star staff and advisors, how dare you! You have turned a once award winning newspaper into a trashy, high school smear rag. You have consistently misquoted and misrepresented the student body of this campus. Your advisor and writers alike address the blatant disregard for the truth with statements of a "lack of obligation" to anyone to find the facts, stating that you are only printing what people have told you or that "it's an opinion piece." Someone misleading your staff writers is no excuse to print lies and fabrications.

The term "Gross Factual Error" applies to something printed in a newspaper, opinion or otherwise, which is not true. You write for a newspaper that is constantly filled with these errors. As a newspaper, you have an obligation to print the truth. If you are unable to find out what that is then maybe you don't possess the journalistic talents necessary to function in the field.

It saddens me to think that this is the quality of education our journalism students are receiving here at Valley College. One based not in journalistic integrity and ethics but in sensationalism instead. Countless times the intent of a student's words has been twisted to fit whatever story your paper was writing at the time. Words are but arbitrary symbols used to express a person's thoughts and ideas. You cannot remove the contextual basis or the underlying intent of a person's statements and call it a quote simply because you kept some of the actual words. That is an unethical practice and occurs far too often in the Valley Star.

Grammatical and syntactical errors constantly litter your paper as well. Have some pride in your work and take responsibility for your mistakes! I have waited now through two of your issues but still have not seen the retractions of your own admitted mistakes, however small you may feel that they are.

You should be ashamed of yourselves. There are many great things that occur on this campus on a daily basis. Where are those stories? Where is the flagpole dedication piece from earlier this month or the math lab stories of success? Where is the coverage of the music department performances? (Which are spectacular, by the way.) Instead you choose to spread misinformation and highlight primarily the negatives with profound exaggerations.

You have insisted that you are only students and that you are still learning. Well so are we. If you're going to institute a zero-tolerance standard for mistakes on this campus then follow it yourselves. Quit printing trash and start using your medium in a more positive, or at least, more accurate way. Maybe then it will once again be seen as a legitimate newspaper and not just something to keep coffee stains off of desks.

-Josh Wible, ASU President

For Your Next Lesson - Apathy

ASTRID SEIPELT
MANAGING EDITOR

When I think of my fellow students at Valley College, it saddens me to realize that far too many of us do not care. We don't care about what goes on around campus, we don't care about who represents us on student councils, but worst of all, we don't care about the reason why we all get out of bed in the morning to come here, to become educated individuals. We simply don't care to extend ourselves academically in the classroom. So, the question I pose to you is - Why do most of you bother to come to school?

I don't know about all of you, but

there is nothing worse than sitting in a classroom, trying to be attentive in lecture, when the door keeps banging open and closed as stragglers file in, 20 or 30 minutes late. Yes, we live in Los Angeles, and making our way to school generally involves navigating a parking lot called the 101 and 405 freeways, but really, we all know what time class starts, so plan accordingly. Latecomers aren't the only interruption in class, however. Freshman seem to be the worst offenders in the distraction game, giggling constantly in the back row about the latest episode of 90210.

"Students that have just graduated high school, they don't know what it is like out there in the real

Do you feel that your fellow students care about their time at Valley?

CAMPUS VIEW:

Photos by Klara Miller, Chief Photographer / Valley Star



"Most of them do, but I think some of them are just wasting their time. They don't go to class, they're just there to make friends."

- Diana Alaniz
education



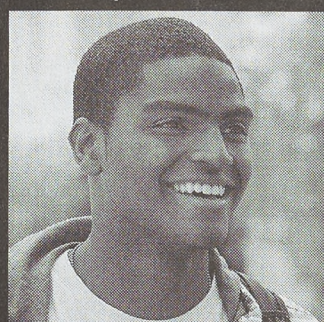
"If someone takes the time to come here and take college classes and get somewhere in life, they're definitely not wasting their time..."

- Charles Figelstock
english



"Some of them yes, some of them no. Most of these people just slack off, they skip class. I do it too, but that's because we're fresh out of high school."

- Jennifer Morgan
film



"No, because everyone pretty much just goes to their class and takes everything for granted, like the programs that we have around."

- Rane Fleming
business marketing

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Send letters to the editor to thevalleystar@yahoo.com. Letters must be limited to 300 words and can be edited for publication. A full name and contact information must be supplied in order to be printed. Letters must be received by Thursday to be included in the next edition.

LAVC
EVENTS**Wednesday, April 22-23**

On Wednesday the Career/Transfer Center will offer a "Resume Writing & Interviewing Skills" workshop from 1-2 p.m. and 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the Administration Building, Room 126. On Thursday, a "Go Green: Careers in Environmental Science" workshop from 1-2 p.m. in the Foreign Language Building, Room 102. For more information, contact the Office of Academic Affairs at (818) 947-2326.

Wednesday, April 22-23

Don't Forget to Vote in the ASU Elections! The Associate Student Union will hold its elections from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. and 4-7 p.m. in Monarch Square. For more information, contact the ASU Office at (818) 778-5516.

Think Transfer!**Thursday, April 23**

Careers in Environmental Science Workshop 1-2pm FL 102
CSU Los Angeles Rep 10am-1pm

Tuesday, April 28

Careers in Entertainment Workshop 1-2pm FL 102
Undecided Major/Career Workshop 5:30-6:30pm

All activities in Career/Transfer Center (Administration 126) unless otherwise indicated. Call the Career/Transfer Center for further information (818) 947-2646.

MOVIE REVIEW

**"The Soloist" Takes The Lead**

JOSH SPENCE
STAFF WRITER

Based on a series of columns from the Los Angeles Times journalist Steve Lopez, director Joe Wright's latest effort, "The Soloist," is a moving and powerful film that captures the essence of Los Angeles.

Amid a flurry of unforgiving deadlines and bad story ideas, Lopez (Robert Downey Jr.) discovers Nathaniel Ayers (Jamie Foxx), a homeless, Juilliard trained musician living on Los Angeles' Skid Row. After profiling Ayers in his "Points West" column, he pries further into Nathaniel's descent into poverty, and takes it upon himself to help his new friend regardless if he wants it or is aware of it. What unfolds over the remainder of the film is the push and pull of two men, together and individually, who are struggling to come

to terms with themselves and the catharsis that eventually comes with acceptance.

Jamie Foxx is terrific in his portrayal of the schizophrenic musical prodigy Ayers. What makes this performance great is the authenticity Foxx brings to the character from mannerisms, impediments, and cadences, to having his teeth ground down to match Ayers'. It's also appreciated that Foxx doesn't take the schizophrenia over the top. The emotional outbursts are often violent, but Foxx gives the character equal parts humor, humility, and innocence.

Perhaps there wasn't as much character immersion playing Steve Lopez as there was playing Kirk Lazarus in "Tropic Thunder" but Robert Downey, Jr. is more than convincing as a reporter stuck between the objectivity his job requires and the empathy and compassion he pos-

sesses. After back to back roles in "Tropic Thunder" and "Iron Man," it's refreshing to see Downey in a subtler role that allows his dramatic chops to shine. One of his greatest qualities is the ability to share the screen with other A-List actors, maybe more so than anyone in Hollywood. It's that talent that allows the relationship between Lopez and Ayers to captivate the audience with the emotional intensity required to make this film interesting.

As much as Foxx and Downey play key roles in "The Soloist," Joe Wright's direction ("Pride and Prejudice," "Atonement") made sure the city of Los Angeles is as important to the film as its characters. With shots of Pershing Square and grimy freeway underpasses juxtaposed with the majestic sight of the Walt Disney Concert Hall, Wright effectively shows the contradictory nature of the city that plays a vital role to the film. Kudos should be given for the unflinching look at the all too real depravity, drug use, and desolation that was Skid Row no less than 10 years ago.

Initially bumped from a Nov. 21, 2008 release to April 24, "The Soloist" is an award worthy film that is easily the first great drama of 2009. Hopefully the voters will remember this early release come Oscar time.

ALBUM REVIEW

"Swoon" is a Cure for the "Lazy Eye"

IVAN ZUNIGA
STAFF WRITER

A mix of indie, rock and grunge is what you can expect from Silversun Pickups new album "Swoon." With its latest single "Panic Switch" released March 3, fans have already had the chance to hear a taste of their widely anticipated album, which has been worth the wait. With ten solid tracks that will have you wanting more, this album is sure to keep you in a state of ecstasy.

With many writers and fans comparing the band to The Smashing Pumpkins, this album redefines the band as they give a new name to the genre of Shoegaze, which consists of different effects from guitar to vocals that blend well together. Originating from the Silver Lake music scene, what makes their music stand out in this album is the use of heavy drums, distorted guitar and bass-rhythms that give the listener a breath of fresh air.

Producer Dave Cooley, who worked with the Silversun Pickups in their previous album "Carnavas," has once again chosen to reunite with the band recorded "Swoon" in Los Angeles. While recording their latest album, the band took a break to tour, which shows in their new material with impressive lyrics and smooth tempos that keep the listener tuned to each song.

As "Carnavas" topped the charts before the release of "Swoon," hits like "Lazy Eye" and "Well Thought Out Twinkles" were songs that defined who the Silversun Pickups were as they were heard around the world. Now with the release of their new album, they have a lot to prove to fans as they attempt to do it again.

Starting off strong with "There's

No Secrets This Year" the first track opens a curtain on a new year as the band includes an unexpected fast and strong guitar that has you want-

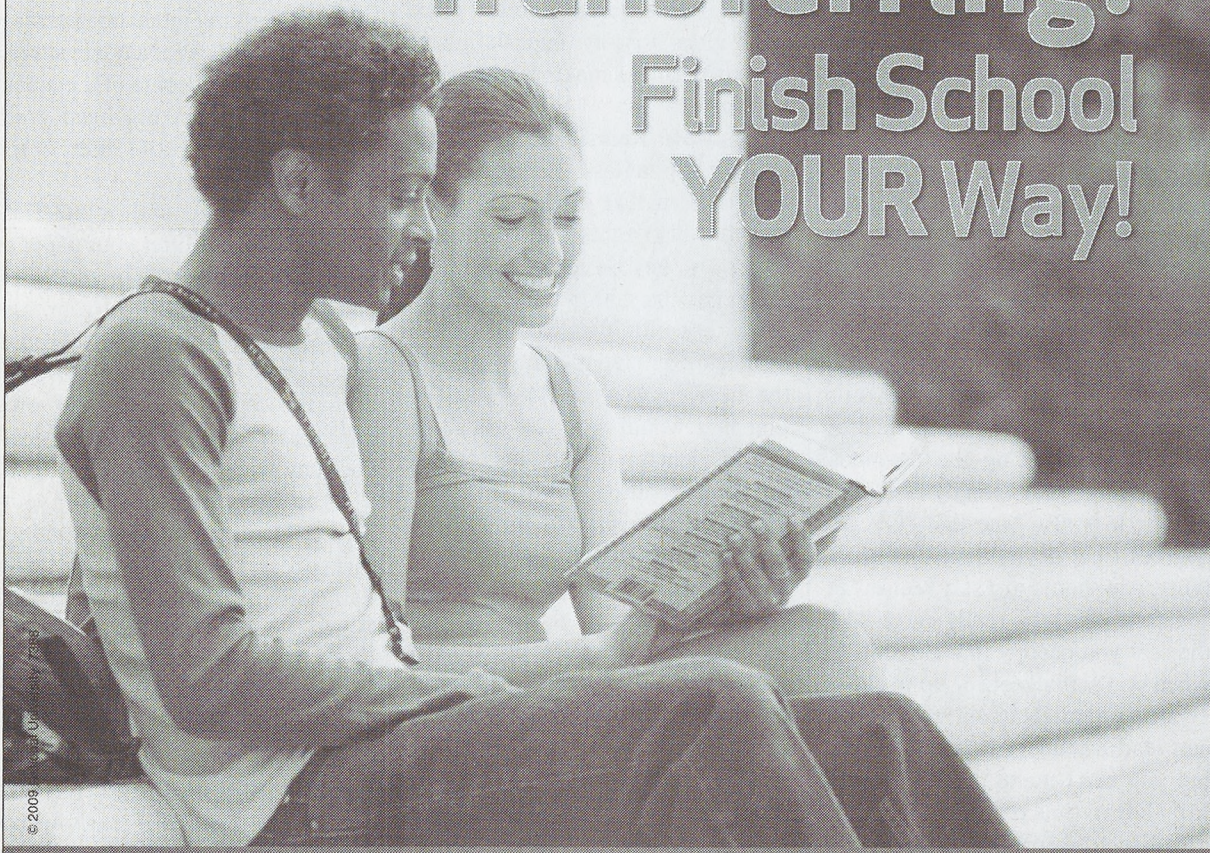
ing more. Standout tracks like "Growing Old Is Getting Old" and "Substitution" are the ideal tracks to listen to if you're looking for a quick escape from all your problems or relax as you hear mellow melodies that will have you keeping these tracks on repeat.

"Some songs are very quiet and delicate, while others are just f-ing loud," said Lead singer Brian Aubert about his latest piece of work in Alternative Press Magazine. Aubert is known for mixing up things in the band with his hard hitting lyrics and voice.

As they resemble classic artists such as Sonic Youth and My Bloody Valentine, you're sure to be hooked with their new sound. It doesn't matter if you buy the album or trade in a couple of old CDs for it, it's worth the trouble for some good old indie rock.



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Wrapping up a Salty Spring Break

TESTING THE WATERS - Valley college student takes water samples in order to test the Salton Sea water's pH levels.

ANA ROSA MURILLO
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Valley College environmental science students traveled to Salton Sea during spring break, and discovered the fallout from the lack of restoration.

Efforts to restore the sea has been postponed for various reasons including a lack of funds.

"It's been ignored for so many years," said student Astrid Muralles. "The area is almost concealed. There were dead fish and we could smell them, there has been a lot of research but no action."

The area was created in 1905 when a flood from the Colorado River pushed water out into the desert, accord-



ANA ROSA MURILLO / VALLEY STAR

ing to the National Geographic Magazine The area is 227 feet below sea level.

Students gathered samples of the seawater and skeletons of the highly salinized fish along the shoreline. Although the trip was not sponsored by Valley, the students are able to use

the research as an educational experience.

For more information on environmental studies, contact Environmental Science and Anthropology department or Environmental Science Professor Meredith Leonard at (818) 778-5595.

VALLEY LIFE

5

Lil' L.A. Horror Show

SARAH KNOWLES
NEWS EDITOR

Traveling dubiously to "Fangoria's Weekend of Horrors," I began to conjure up all the stereotypical images of a horror movie convention; middle-aged men dressed up as their favorite film character, and has-been actors trying to make a buck or two off of their one shot at fame in the 1970s.

Upon arrival at the Los Angeles Convention Center, those images were swiftly dashed by a wildly cross-cultured selection of people and my doubts of fitting in with the crowd were put to rest.

The horror magazine's annual convention is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year and showcased the newest horror movie releases. The \$20 day admission opened up the door to question and answer sessions with those in the know, including "Spider Man" director Sam Raimi and "Texas Chainsaw Massacre" director, Tobe Hooper. Autographs and photo opportunities with many of the stars were available for a fee.

Walking through the zombie-clad crowd, I arrived at the front desk to pick up my wristband, before being startled by a decomposing corpse and freshly bitten victim.

"We're actually morticians for real," said Erika Snell, who traveled from Colorado for the weekend. "We're zombies because it's human, and the human is the worst predator out there."

Snell and her husband Dustin were most excited about the morning's Zombie Walk, the reason for the costumes that the couple wore, as well as the 300-plus zombies within the area.

According to the Fangoria Web site, the hour-long walk around the center had only a couple of rules: "to remain in character as zombies and to communicate only in a manner consistent with zombies, such as grunts, groans and slurred moans calling for 'Braaiinnzzzz.'" The walk's participants brought along non-perishable goods for the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank.

The core of the convention took place in a warehouse-type space and contained a selection of vendors



THE WALKING DEAD - Erika and Dustin Snell, two morticians from Colorado, return from a Zombie walk around the L.A. Convention Center.

selling merchandise, from devilishly delicious corsets for the ladies and mounds of Frankenstein T-shirts for the men.

Actors available for autographs included decent enough names, such as Bill Moseley, well known for his portrayal of Otis in "The Devil's Rejects" and "House of 1,000 Corpses." Approaching 50-something, it was difficult to recognize

the actor I had watched so many times, but upon hearing his voice, the serial killer moments of his character rushed into my memory like blood out of a fresh wound that he is so synonymous with.

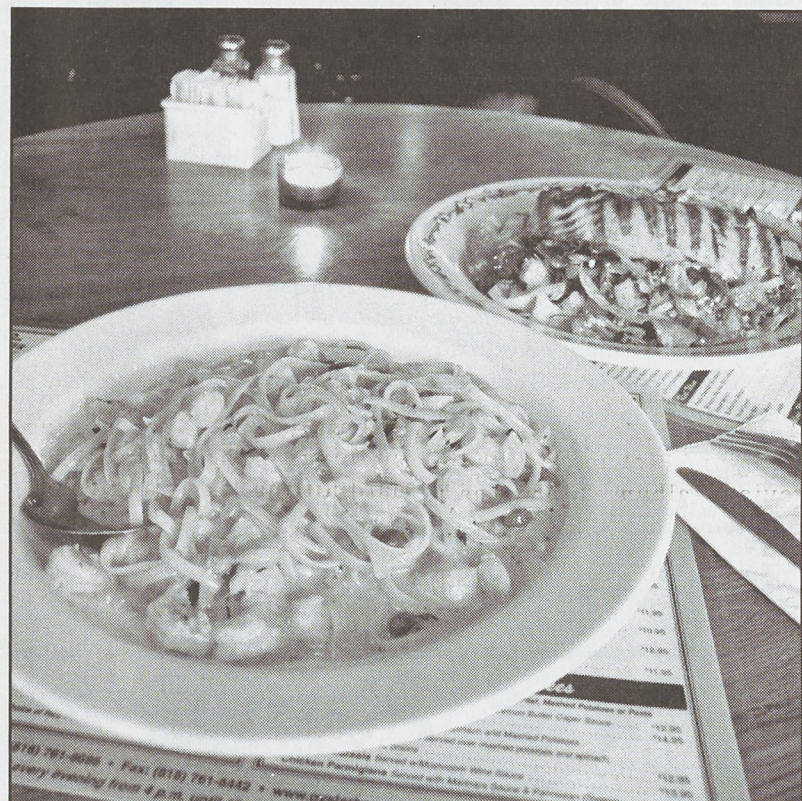
"Where are you from?" he asked, with tired eyes and a weary smile. After answering his question I moved on as quickly as possible, eager to escape the "millionth fan"

feeling many of the convention goers seemed to have created.

By the time 6 p.m. arrived, so did my overdose of all things horror, and I was ready to call it a night. Leaving through the same dynamic crowd I had arrived in, my stereotype preset was altered. Never judging a book by its cover could not have meant more than during this thoroughly fun day.

A Shining Pearl in the Valley Goes Unnoticed in The Oyster House

LAUREN LEES
ONLINE EDITOR



KLARA MILLER / VALLEY STAR

FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE - The Oyster House Restaurant & Saloon in Studio City features a wide selection of fish dishes. The Linguini DeLaCasa sits in the foreground with the salmon salad behind. The restaurant boasts an award-winning chef who creates a dazzling array of daily specials.

Walking past the front entrance of the Oyster House, one isn't immediately enticed inside. However, parked next to an Automotive Shop on Whitsett Avenue and Moorpark Street in Studio City, the white building with aging sign out front opens up to an east coast haven much like 'Cheers,' where after a few visits everyone will know your name.

Viola Tozier, a waitress who has worked there for two and half years, welcomes you in with a joke. "Shut the door, we aren't trying to heat the whole state of California!" Continuing to do so all throughout dinner, her friendly persona is contagious, as everyone, including staff and diners joke around through the night.

"Most of the people are fun and you can crack jokes with them and be goofy with them, and they respond. You get the occasional jerk, and you get 'em in and get 'em out," said Tozier. "But everybody else you have fun, and you wanna go that extra mile for them when they reciprocate the kindness."

Humor is the theme here, whether it's your waitress or the people over at the next table.

The intimate setting makes for a cozy diner with around 25 other guests, and everyone joins in for the laughs.

Twelve tables fan around the bar, forming a little L shape. Against the backdrop of dark wooden walls and dim lighting, the white Christmas lights draped from the ceiling make the perfect fit for a snug affair.

On any given night, expect music performances, ranging from acoustic guitar to classic rock. Or, you can hang out in the back open-air patio, known as the 'concrete beach,' with surfboards, bamboo lined walls, tiki torches, and the bar.

When you visit the Oyster House think red, as their marinara sauce is one of a kind, no matter if it is spaghetti, chicken, or seafood accompanying it. The house specialty is Linguini DeLa Casa, a concoction of seafood, capers, pasta, and a creamy marinara sauce mixed in with Cognac, which absolutely melts in your mouth. Their calamari is the perfect mixture of crunchiness and soft, served with your choice of cocktail sauce, tartar sauce, and lemon.

Staying true to their name, they offer oysters on the half shell, and rare frog legs with pasta. If you aren't into seafood, you can get numerous

chicken and pasta dishes, and Angus beef hamburgers. For those tight on cash, they have various specials ranging from \$9.95 to \$13.95, with more than ample portions.

In operation for 38 years, owner Herb Newman started the bar and restaurant to bring a piece of the sea over the hill. Since then it's been hidden, except for those lucky enough to have found it. Everynight a collection of regulars mixed with adventurous new customers who walk in to land on an east coast gem.

Scott Newman has been working as the restaurant manager for three years now, running weekend night shifts, and is well versed on the running joke of one of the bartenders.

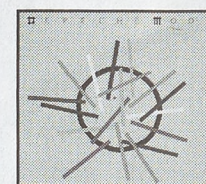
"People joke around that it's Cheers meets the twilight zone," said Newman. "I don't know why, but it's kinda stuck and other people say that... It's a casually cheers place, we have no pretensions, it's very, very easy going."

The perfect spot to take a group of friends or for a date, The Oyster House hits the spot for anyone craving the taste of the sea. With free parking in the back, nightly music, and amazing food, head over the Oyster House and get your fill on big portions, great laughs, and a new place where everyone can know your name.

UPCOMING RELEASES

CD

PICKS OF THE WEEK:



DEPECHE MODE
SOUNDS OF THE
UNIVERSE



MANCHESTER
ORCHESTRA
MEAN EVERY-
THING TO
NOTHING

OTHER RELEASES:

Pet Shop Boys, *Yes*
Matisyahu, *Light*
Endwell, *Consequences*

FILM

PICKS OF THE WEEK:



THE SOLOIST



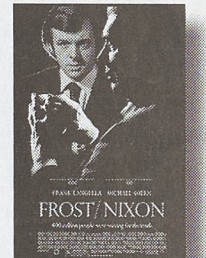
THE
INFORMERS

UPCOMING RELEASES:

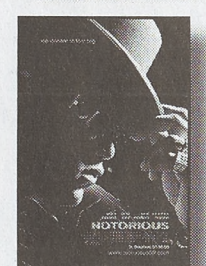
Obsessed
Earth
Fighting

DVD

PICKS OF THE WEEK:



FROST/NIXON



NOTORIOUS

OTHER RELEASES:

The Last Word
The Wrestler
A Jihad For Love

Concerts

PICKS FOR THE WEEKEND:



BLACK KIDS
AT THE
GASSHOUSE



THE NUMBER
12 LOOKS
LIKE YOU AT
THE KNITTING
FACTORY



MATT COSTA AT
THE HOUSE OF
BLUES



THE FAINT
WITH LADY
TRON AT THE
THE GROVE OF
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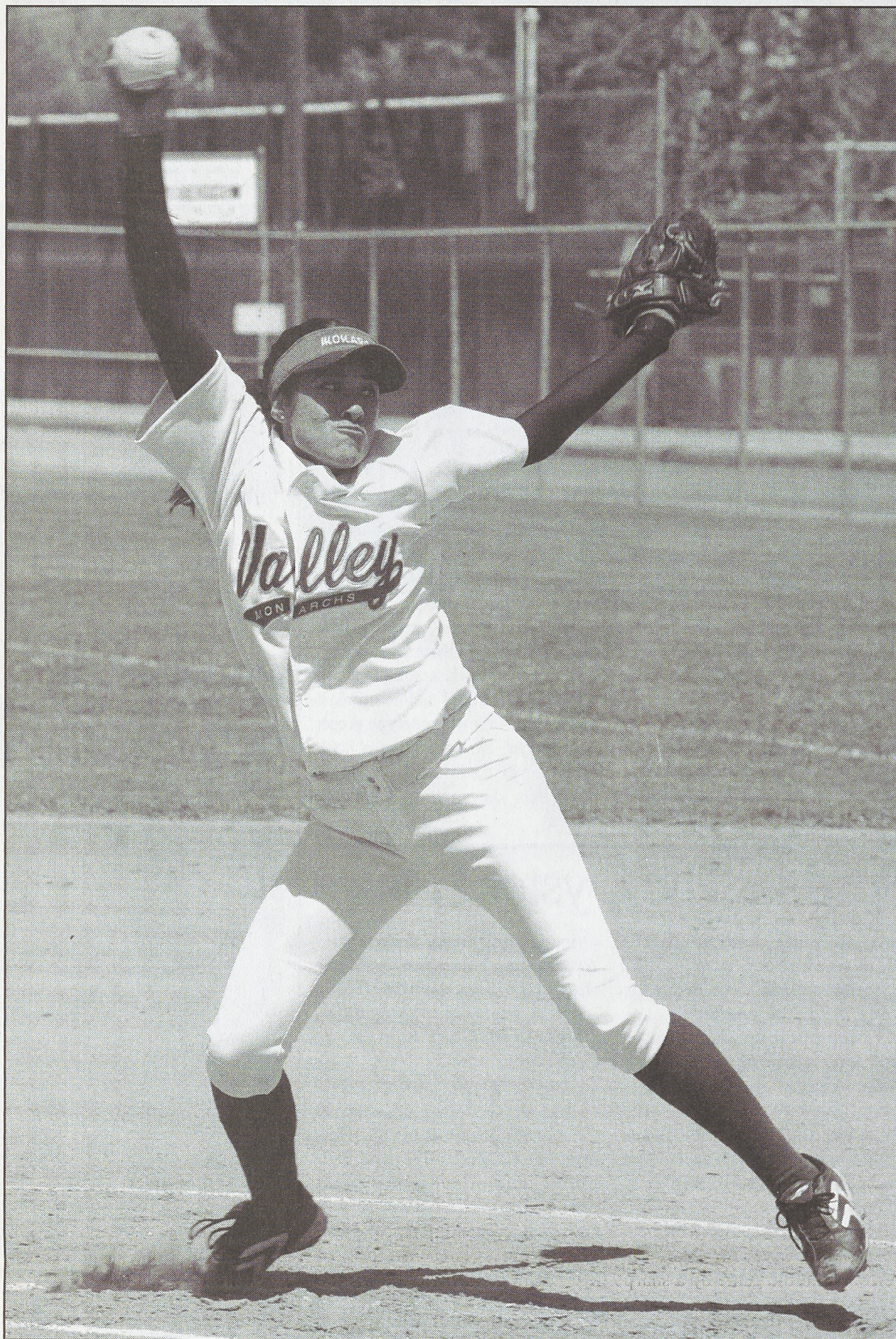
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THE HEAT IS ON - The Lady Monarch pitchers gave the visiting Citrus College softball team all that they could handle as the valley team went on to win both games of the double header at home last week.

Monarchs Sophomore Sendoff



SAFE AT SECOND - A Valley College base runner slides safely into second base during game one of a double header against Citrus College at home last week. The lady Monarchs won both games with strong pitching and steady defense.

■ **The Lady Monarchs say farewell as they win an at-home doubleheader.**

CAITIE UHLMANN
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Green and Yellow balloons adorned the fences of the softball field Thursday, as the Valley College softball team said farewell to their graduating sophomores by winning both games in their doubleheader. The Monarchs outplayed the Citrus College Lady Owls at home, winning 4-3 in game one, and 6-4 in game two.

The sophomore ladies were acknowledge by Coach Garcia in a mini farewell ceremony. Candace Williams (catcher), Kaitlyn Baca (infielder), Yvonne Padilla (outfielder), and Jenny Portillo (outfielder), all stood in a line to receive flowers and praise from Garcia.

"Congratulations Monarchs," said a sentimental Garcia. "There's only one thing to say, Thank you. Thank you for being resilient, and thank you for getting it done consistently. You've been leaders."

Resilience was necessary in game one, as it lasted nine innings. The game was tied 3-3 in the ninth, until a game-winning slide into home by Belen Benitez put the Monarchs on top 4-3.

Game two was scoreless until the top of the third, when Lady Owl Jessica Corrales scored a run, putting Citrus up 1-0.

The Monarchs didn't respond with a run until the bottom of the fourth. A line drive by Valerie Prendiz slipped through the hands of Owls' shortstop Courtney Mihm, landing Padilla on third base. Christina Perez smacked the ball in to left field allowing Padilla to run home and Perez to second.

A key two-run play at the end of the fourth inning put the Monarchs up 3-1. Shasta Lionetti stepped up to the plate with Valaree Garcia on third and Benitez on second. Lionetti crushed the ball into left field, allowing Garcia and Benitez to run home.

Sophomore Candace Williams scored in the bottom of the fifth, putting the Monarchs up 4-3. During Valaree Garcia's turn at bat, an off-center throw by Owls

pitcher Amanda Jauergui sailed over home plate, permitting Perez and Padilla, who were on first and second, to steal second and third. A whack to left field by Garcia cleared Padilla to run home, and Perez to third. The Monarchs ended the fifth with a 5-3 lead.

The Monarchs' Shasta Lionetti provided the only score in the sixth inning. A sacrificial pop-up by batter Amber Cabada allowed Lionetti, who had stolen first and second, to run home, taking the lead 6-3.

The Lady Owls went on to score one run at the top of the seventh, ending the game with a victorious 6-4 win for the Monarchs.

As the game ended, the celebratory Green and Yellow balloons on the fence were now wavering a little bit harder, as the breeze was stronger, and the sun a little less warm. The Monarchs' two victorious games had marked not only the end of the season, but also the end of the road for the graduating sophomores. For Williams, Baca, Padilla, and Portillo, it was an ideal way to end their careers at Valley.

OPINION NFL Draft Needs Reset

ROBERT R. KING
STAFF WRITER

The changes to the NFL Draft that owners agreed to in March are the first step to improve a broken system. By adopting rules that say no team that makes the playoffs will draft ahead of non-playoff teams, the NFL clearly wants to create parity on every level. However, more changes should be made.

This year's draft features two unfair instances in its order. When the first round begins on April 25, the San Diego Chargers, who won the AFC West and earned a berth in the playoffs, will pick 16th ahead of five teams who did not play in the post season. The New England Patriots did not make the playoffs and have the 23rd pick this

year because they finished with an 11-5 record, better than three playoff teams.

These disparities occurred because the old ordering system placed teams by their final record, unless they reached the conference championship.

In the new system, playoff teams will be seeded in the draft in the order in which they are eliminated and each group of losing teams will be ordered by their record. Under this system, the Patriots would draft 20th and the Chargers would draft 25th.

Even though the NFL Competition Committee recommended the changes that will be implemented next year to ensure this does not happen again, the league should go a step further by taking a page from the way the NFL schedule is arranged.

The schedule's basis rests in each team's standing in their division at the end of the season, so the draft should reflect teams' divi-

sional results as well.

For example, the last place teams in each division, who play the other last place teams in their conference the following year, should receive the top eight picks in the draft. Their overall record would determine those teams' draft order.

The third place teams would follow in picks nine through 16 and the seeds for playoff teams would mirror the new plan. As for the playoff teams, wildcard teams should pick before division winners, unless they go to the Super Bowl.

These changes could help the NFL ensure parity not only through the league as a whole, but also bring equality to each division by helping weaker teams with higher draft picks. By ensuring teams have the best chance to improve yearly, the NFL gives fans of underachieving teams hope and a reason to buy tickets for the following season.

long enough to reach the strikeout milestone.

So if all things are equal, how does Schilling get the presumptive nod? It's not that big of a stretch to assume the press likes Schilling more because he's a baseball enthusiast who can talk shop for days about baseball and blogging? Compared to Sheffield who gets traded every other year and wants a bigger contract on the years he's not traded while calling everything and everyone racist. We love T.O. in the NFL but there is a stigma with Sheffield in the MLB. For sports writers to like one player more than another is bound to happen but to deny a player of the ultimate career achievement based on perception, speculation or attitude is inexcusable.

Forget the Past, Fenwick is Thinking of the Future

LUCAS THOMPSON
STAFF WRITER

After several months of interviewing candidates to fill the coaching position in the football program, former Valley College and Occidental College coach Jim Fenwick will now take the title of head coach once more.

The announcement was made on March 25 after an election committee narrowed down the seventeen candidates to one.

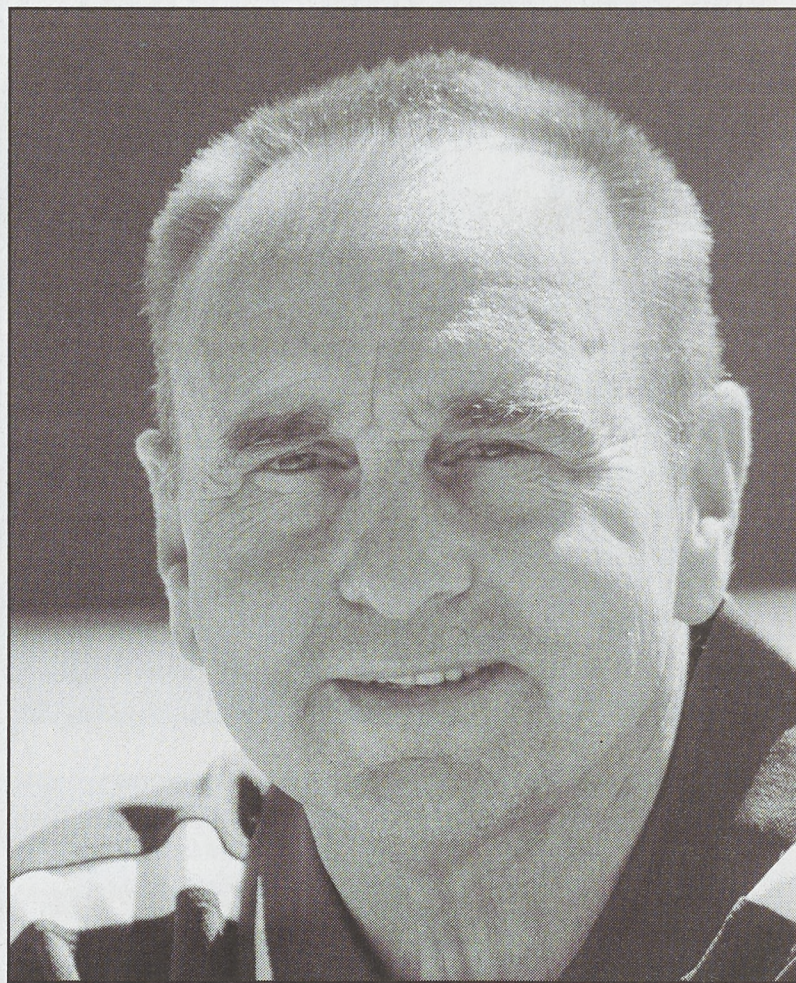
"I'm really excited to have the opportunity to be back at Valley," Fenwick says. "I'm a little bit cautious...I hope we can live up to the expectations...but I am excited about the challenges."

Fenwick was initially brought in as a long-term physical education substitute in fall 2008, and will be replacing Jimmy Sims as head coach. Despite the change in ranks, Fenwick will be keeping Sims on staff in a position which is "still up in the air."

"I'm more excited about coaching at Valley than I have been in a long time," Sims says about the return of Fenwick. "He has enlightened me on offensive schemes and I am here to do anything he wants for Valley football."

As of now, Sims will be helping on the offensive side of the ball with two additional returning staff members, Defensive Line coach Julio Gramajo, and Defensive Coordinator Leon Criner.

According to Coach Fenwick his program will emphasize communication within the team's system. The playbook, schemes, and coaching staff will be secondary. "The difference comes in the



SAMUEL OKSNER / VALLEY STAR

communication in your system...the system (and) terminology will be all new to them."

Leading the Monarchs to four bowl games and one National Championship from 1991 to 1996, Coach Fenwick is forgetful of the past with eyes to the future, saying "I'm proud of what we did...but that's not going to help us...things are different (now)."

September 5, the Monarchs and Fenwick will take the field for their season opener against the Ventura Pirates. The new coach

approaches the game and upcoming season with a new phrase "We have a team theme we call Valley Pride...we are trying to do our part (and) represent the students of Valley College."

Along with newly appointed Coach Fenwick, Valley will incur a few more changes in the coming fall with a new Women's Basketball coach being hired and a new Athletic Director to be chosen within the next six months, according to current A.D Chuck Ferrero.

OPINION Sheff Will Hit the Fan After Retirement

JOSH SPENCE
STAFF WRITER

With a simple crack of the bat, New York Mets reserve outfielder Gary Sheffield has become one of 25 players to ever hit 500 home runs.

Statisticians, trivial pursuists, and the sports media were the first to rattle off the gamut of accomplishments Sheffield has achieved: 500 home runs, 2500 hits, five time silver slugger and nine time all star.

However, when the debate comes if Sheffield is Hall of Fame worthy, the status is maybe.

Sheffield's career of enigmatic highs and lows will only hinder his chances of reaching the hall.

The red flag for Sheffield is that his best numbers were over a

five-year period that was also the height of the steroids era. It's debatable that Sheffield could've 'roided up. It's also possible that we witnessed a star talent who in his prime mashed with the best of them, clean. Sheffield admitted to using "the cream and the clear" (later to be revealed as a steroid from BALCO) for a few months to repair his knee. Experimenting with a legal (at the time) alternative to heal a knee shouldn't erase years of extremely productive work. Sheffield also passed random drug tests that don't count for anything. Why?

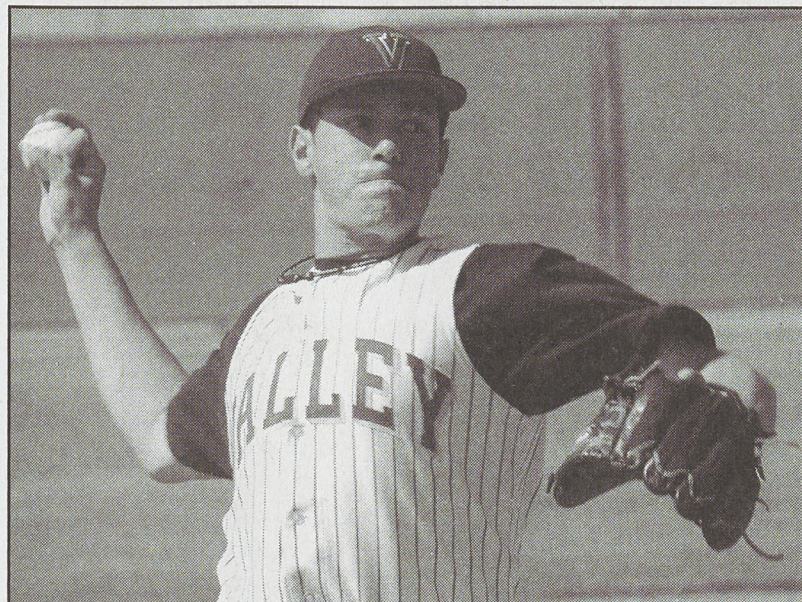
Public perception. Look at Curt Schilling. Different accolades but the same career path. Coveted prospect, traded around, had five unbelievable years (same time as Sheffield), stayed around

SPORTS

7

Season Long Slide Stops Here

■ The Monarch men come out swinging in a close 3-2 win against Pierce College, where pitching was key.



SCOTT MITCHELL, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

ON TARGET - Strong pitching and defense contributed to the Monarch victory over Pierce College at home last week. Valley entered the match keen to atone for their 6-5 loss to the Brahmas earlier this month.

H. GORE
SPORTS EDITOR

It was hard to tell that freshman pitcher Edgar Correa was making his second start of the season for Valley College last Thursday at Pike Field. The 6-foot-2 right-hander pitched seven innings of three-hit, scoreless ball to guide the Monarchs to a 3-2 victory over the Pierce College Brahmas.

"I just came in knowing I had to shut these guys down," said Correa. "I put a lot of pressure on myself to do well and I went out there and threw strikes."

The win gave the Monarchs a split in the series with the Brahmas

who defeated Valley 6-5 April 14 at Pierce. Correa's strong performance was backed by timely hitting by the Monarchs' offense.

Sophomore first baseman Alberto Ceja put Valley on the board in the bottom of the first with a two-out double that scored center fielder Alex Gaudioso. Sophomore outfielder Alex Gast followed with a single, scoring Ceja and giving the Monarchs a 2-0 lead after an inning of play.

Pierce pitcher Jacob Miranda settled down after the first, and he and Correa posted scoreless second, third, and fourth innings. Valley sophomore second baseman Art Martin broke the scoring drought in the fifth inning when



SCOTT MITCHELL, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

RUNNING DRILLS - The Monarchs work on their base running drills prior to the start of the game against Pierce College at home on Thursday. The win, followed by another victory against Glendale College on Saturday moved Valley to 10-27 overall and 7-17 in the Western State South Conference.

"I just came in knowing that had to shut these guys down. I put a lot of pressure on myself to do well and I went out there and threw strikes."

- Valley Pitcher
Edgar Correa

he singled up the middle with two outs, bringing home Luis Estrada.

"I was just looking for a pitch to hit, got one and drove it," said Martin. "I tried to score my teammates because I knew we'd need more runs."

Martin's words proved to be prophetic. Coach Dave Mallas went to the bullpen to start the eighth, a move that Correa was admittedly mad about, and trouble followed immediately.

Freshman lefty Joey Gerig was welcomed to the game by a sharp

single off the bat of Pierce's David Whetstone. James Wharton said his hello with a two-run homer to left that drew the Brahmas within one at 3-2.

Mallas was forced to bring in freshman Tony Goebel to finish the eighth and the game, and afterwards he defended his decision to pull Edgar Correa.

"It's his second start so his arm strength isn't up there and he was over 100 pitches," said Mallas. "We wanna take care of our pitching staff. He did his job

so it was time to hand it over to the bullpen and they did their job."

The Monarchs were able to take Thursday's success on the road Saturday when they defeated the Glendale College Vaqueros 6-3. The victory moved Valley's record to 10-27 overall, 7-17 in the Western State South Conference.

Valley travels to Bakersfield for games on April 23 and 25 before closing out their season April 30 at Pike Field against Mission College.

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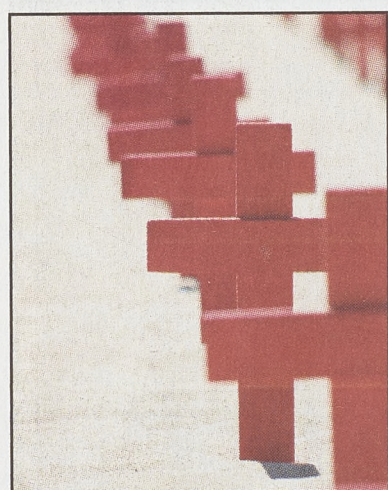
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SCOTT MITCHELL, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

A SOLEMN MOMENT - A man walks alone next to row after row of crosses in the sand adjacent to the Santa Monica Pier. Veterans and anti-war volunteers start their day before sunrise and work into the night.

Arlington West; Time To End The War!



SAMUEL OKSNER / VALLEY STAR

A SUNDAY RITUAL-Their work will continue until the war ends.

SCOTT MITCHELL
PHOTO EDITOR

Driving down the Pacific Coast Highway past the Santa Monica Pier on any given Sunday, you can not help but see thousands of wooden crosses placed in the sand as part of the Arlington West Memorial. Veterans for Peace, volunteers, and concerned citizens have been protesting the war in Iraq and Afghanistan by remembering our fallen men and women. Each white cross

represents a fallen soldier. Each red cross represents every ten soldiers that die, and the blue crosses represent American soldiers that lost their lives on that day.

Edgar Cuevas works as a Veteran Affairs Representative here at Valley College. Cuevas served four and a half years in the army, with one of those years in Iraq. While deployed, Cuevas participated in scout raids, patrols, convoy security, and civil affairs.

"It is a sign of honor

to respect the veterans who have fallen in Iraq and Afghanistan," said Cuevas when he was asked about Arlington West.

"When I first went there it hit me very hard. It was very emotional. I saw it as a remembrance for my brothers and sisters in arms."

Founded in 1985, Veterans for Peace is a national organization of veterans of all eras and duty stations spanning the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939), World War II, Korean, Vietnam, Gulf, and the current Iraq war, as well as other conflicts.



KLARA MILLER, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER / VALLEY STAR

IN MEMORIAM - A sign at the Arlington West Memorial on Santa Monica beach lists the number of U.S. military personnel killed and wounded in Iraq since the start of the war.



GRETTEL CORTES / VALLEY STAR

LOOKING FORWARD TO PEACE - A volunteer quietly gathers crosses as the sun starts to set.



SCOTT MITCHELL, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

RESPECTFUL - A volunteer spends her day attending to the crosses of fallen soldiers and engaging the public in conversation.